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Posted To: Western Comments
Conversation: Ridgefield, WA and Western Washington Phase II Stormwater Draft Permit
Subject: Re: Ridgefield, WA and Western Washington Phase II Stormwater Draft Permit

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

Re: Western Washington Phase II Stormwater Draft Permit

I am writing to provide comments to the Western Washington Phase II Stormwater Draft Permit. I would like to request that DOE consider including the city of Ridgefield, Clark County, Washington for coverage under this permit.

The City of Ridgefield (estimated current population 3000) occupies a substantial portion of the small, 12,000-acre Gee Creek Watershed, a tributary of the Columbia River. Much of the City has been built along the lower reach of the creek mainstem. Rapid annexation and residential/industrial growth and development since the 2000 census are poised to place substantial, additional water quality demands on the Gee Creek watershed, a system already rated as in poor condition by a Clark County Water Resources 2004 Stream Health Report. nt. An additional 1800 residential units are already in the development process in the City of Ridgefield, along with planned industrial development along the I-5 corridor. Gee Creek flows into the Columbia River via the Carty Unit of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, an area of regional ecological significance for its remnant native floodplain ecosystems with associated resident and migratory wildlife.

The rapidly changing conditions in Ridgefield and the Gee Creek Watershed merit requiring a Phase II permit as soon as possible in order to implement maximum effective stormwater management in response to changing conditions and planned growth. Sedimentation, seasonal flows, high summer/fall temperatures, and bacteria levels are recognized as watershed problems.

The unincorporated portion of the watershed is regulated under the Clark County stormwater permit. It would be counterproductive to have the very rapidly growing urban portion of the watershed not covered by a Phase II stormwater permit.

The above comments are provided with a general understanding of the stormwater permit process, and with specific reference to Page 6 lines 1-6, and page 7 lines 15-30.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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